



#17/10-29-01

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 05725.0533-00
Customer No. 22,852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
ALAIN BETHUNE et al.)
Application No. 09/506,795) Group Art Unit: 1734
Filed: February 18, 2000) Examiner: K. Shortsle
For: MATERIAL SUPPLY STRIP,)
SYSTEM, AND METHOD OF)
APPLYING PIECES OF)
MATERIAL TO OBJECTS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In an Office Action dated September 21, 2001, the Examiner applied a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 among the following claim groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-35 and 72-73, directed to a method of applying pieces of material to objects;
- Group II: Claims 36-57 and 71, directed to a material supply strip for use in an applicator device configured to apply pieces of material to objects; and
- Group III: Claims 58-70 and 74-75, directed to an application system for applying pieces of material to objects.

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Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-35 and 72-73, directed to a method of applying pieces of material to objects.

For the claims of Group I, the Office Action also contained an election of species requirement among the following allegedly distinct species:

- A1: Using two application stations to perform the claimed method; or
- B1: Using one application station to perform the claimed method.
- A2: Applying pieces of material to two different groups of objects; or
- B2: Applying pieces of material to common objects.
- A3: At least one piece of material on a first surface of the material supply strip is substantially the same piece as at least one piece of material on the second surface; or
- B3: Each surface of the material supply strip has a different piece of material.

Applicants elect the following alleged species of Group I:

- A1: Using two application stations to perform the claimed method. Claims 1-6, 8-35, and 72-73 read on this species.
- B2: Applying pieces of material to common objects. Claims 1-12, 14-35, and 72-73 read on this species.
- B3: Each surface of the material supply strip has a different piece of material. Claims 1-14, 16, 18, 20, 21-35, and 72-73 read on this species.

Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 8-10, 21-35, and 72 are generic to all of the alleged species of Group I.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Date: October 22, 2001

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